

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05499 151222Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 COA-02 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 002150

R 151152Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3443

S E C R E T USNATO 5499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 14 NAC AGENDA ITEM I-POLITICAL SUBJECTS: ICELAND-UK
FISHERIES AGREEMENT

1. IN NOVEMBER 14 MORNING NAC SESSION, UK AND ICELANDIC PERMREPS BOTH MADE STATEMENTS WELCOMING THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON THE ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE. PECK (UK) INVITED ATTENTION TO PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S COMMONS STATEMENT WELCOMING THE FISHERIES SETTLEMENT AND EXPRESSED UK GRATITUDE TO ALLIES AND NATO ITSELF FOR HELPING AGREEMENT ALONG. TOMASSON (ICELAND) EXPRESSED HIS OWN GRATITUDE THAT, UNLIKE PERIODS IN PAST, HE WAS ABLE TO FULLY SECOND ALL OF THE UK PERMREP'S REMARKS ON THE FISHERIES ISSUE. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS AN INTERIM ACCORD ONLY AND THAT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE UK AND ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEE EYE TO EYE OVER THE LONG TERM SINCE THE AGREEMENT DID NOT PERMANENTLY RESOLVE THE POINTS AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE APPRECIATED FACT THAT PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE HAD AGREED TO AVOID INCIDENTS AT SEA AND WELCOMED THE PROSPECT THAT, FOR NEXT TWO WINTERS AT LEAST, FISHERMEN COULD PLY THEIR TRADE WITH LESS RISK AND GREATER SAFETY.

2. TOMASSON SAID AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN UK AND
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 05499 151222Z

ICELAND IN LARGE PART BECAUSE THEY WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. HE SPECIFICALLY THANKED UK PERMREP PECK WHO NEVER LET NATIONAL DIFFERENCES DESCEND TO THE PERSONAL LEVEL AND HE GAVE CREDIT TO THE "ATMOSPHERE IN THIS HOUSE" WHICH HAD PERMITTED

USEFUL CONTACTS TO CONTINUE BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UK. THE ICELANDIC PERMREP ALSO THANKED COUNCIL DEAN DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) FOR HIS PERSONAL HELP AND FOR BELGIUM'S ROLE IN MOVING FIRST TO SIGN A NEW FISHING AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND. HE THANKED THE NORWEGIAN AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS FOR SIMILAR ACTION WHICH HAD, IN PART, PAVED THE WAY FOR THE UK-ICELANDIC INTERIM AGREEMENT. HE HOPED THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE. TOMASSON RESERVED HIGHEST PRAISE WHICH HE LAVISHED ON SYG LUNS, TERMING LATTER'S ROLE AS "EXTREMEELY IMPORTANT" IN PERMITTING AGREEMENTS ACHIEVING THIS NEW AGREEMENT.

3. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) THANKED THE UK AND ICELANDIC PERMREPS FOR THEIR GOOD NEWS WHICH HE TERMED AS RARE AS IT WAS WELCOME. RUMSFELD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05499
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731165/abqcedho.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER 14 NAC AGENDA ITEM I-POLITICAL SUBJECTS: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005